

Message Text

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LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 10150 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TUNIS APR 22

QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 10150

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, XF

SUBJECT: PLO OBSERVER MISSION ISSUE

REF: (A) PARIS 8496; (B) TUNIS 2259

1. AS INITIALLY REPORTED TO DEPT. (REFTEL A), TUNISIAN PERMREP INDICATED TO US PERMDEL BY SECRETARIAT SOURCES AS HAVING MADE INITIAL CONTACTS IN INQUIRING ABOUT INSCRIPTION ON EXBD AGENDA, AND WHO SAID TO BE LOBBY-ING AMONG OTHER PERMDELS TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT, OF ITEM ACCORDING PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION STATUS.

2. IN RESPONSE REFTTEL B, TUNISIAN PERMREP, RAFIK SAID,
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ALSO TOOK INITIATIVE TO SOUND OUT US PERMDEL ON LIKELY

US REACTIONS, ALTHOUGH SAID DID NOT CITE ABOVE EFFORTS HE HAD PERSONALLY UNDERTAKEN FOR PLO ITEM. TUNISIAN PERMREP THEREFORE BEST DESCRIBED AS TAKING LEAD AS A PRIME MOVER ON ISSUE ENTAILING CLOSE CONCERT WITH OTHER ARAB PERMDELS HERE, AS WELL AS PLO'S IBRAHIM SOUSS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY, BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY, APPLIED DIRECTLY TO UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ACCREDITATION AS RESIDENT PERMANENT OBSERVER. PLO IS LIKELY TRUE INITIATOR OF BRINGING QUESTION TO EXBD.

3. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IS THAT NO FORMAL DOCUMENT REQUESTING INSCRIPTION OF ITEM ON AGENDA HAS YET BEEN SUBMITTED TO EXBD SECRETARIAT NOR IS ANY DOCUMENT YET AVAILABLE PROVIDING LANGUAGE OF EXACTLY WHAT STATUS WILL BE SOUGHT FOR PLO.

4. MOST RECENT REPORTS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT PROSPECTIVE ITEM WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE RESIDENT OBSERVER MISSION STATUS AT UNESCO FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND NOT RPT. NOT PLO ALONE. MOREOVER, ARAB PERMDELS REPORTEDLY HAVE CONTACTED OTHER LDC'S--NOTABLY LATIN AMERICANS AND BLACK AFRICANS--AND, AFTER CAUTIONED BY LATTER ON FURTHER HARM THAT PLO ITEM COULD CAUSE ALREADY DAMAGED IMAGE OF UNESCO, MAY NOW HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION MEASURES THAT WOULD FURTHER INTEGRATE PLO-ALM'S INTO UNESCO BUT POSSIBLY AVOIDING EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO GRANTING OBSERVER MISSION STATUS.

5. IN SUM, PERMDEL ANALYSIS OF LEGAL ASPECTS ARE: (A) THAT ONLY MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO OPEN PERMANENT DELEGATIONS WITH DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES UNDER TERMS OF UNESCO-GOF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT, (B) ONLY HOLY SEE AND A FEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL RPT. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS--MOST NOTABLY ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ALESCO) AND OAU-- DNSE-RMREP AND HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN PERMITTED TO ACCREDIT OBSERVERS BY DECISIONS OF UNESCO EXBD; (C) LATTER HOW-

EVER DO NOT RPT. NOT ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES OR
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IMMUNITIES AND (D) THAT COMBINED EFFECT OF PAST PRACTICE AND AMBIGUITY OF UNESCO STATUTES NEITHER EXPLICITLY GRANTS NOR DENIES EXBD AUTHORITY TO GRANT ORGANIZATION LIKE PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS.

6. IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT SAID ACTING IN CONCERT OTHER ARAB PERMDELS AND PLO'S IBRAHIM SOUSS WITHOUT HAVING ASKED FOR GOT AUTHORIZATION. SAID, ALTHOUGH CORRECT

AND OFTEN CORDIAL IN CONTACTS WITH US PERMDEL, MAY HAVE SEEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-ADVANCEMENT IN ISSUE THAT CURRENTLY A STRONG TREND IN UN FORA.

7. PERMDEL SOUNDINGS INDICATE THERE ARE SUFFICIENT VOTES FOR PRO PLO ITEM TO PASS IF IT IS INSCRIBED. ONLY RESISTANCE, AS INDICATED PARA 4 ABOVE, BUT THAT UNLIKELY TO BE TRANSLATED INTO VOTES AGAINST, STEMS FROM BLACK AFRICAN RELUCTANCE TO SEE ISSUE ARISE THAT WILL PROVKE FURTHER CRITICISM AGAINST UNESCO. AFRICANS SEEM INTERESTED IN FINDING WAY OUT OF PROBLEM--POSSIBLY BY AT LEAST POSTPONING ACTION TO ANOTHER BOARD SESSION--AND PRECLUDE ANOTHER CRISIS FOR ORGANIZATION.

8. PERMDEL CONTINUING DUIETLY EXERT STRONG PRESSURE THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACTS TO INDICATE US OPPOSITION AND SO ENCOURAGE MORE ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISEM RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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